

FAP Comment /Question Master List

Name	Comment No.	Comment Source	General Topic	Comment	Issues	Reponse
Margit F. Chiriaco Rusche	1-17-1	Email	Favorable to the Plan with stipulations.	I would like to go on record as supporting the draft financial assistance program for the Salton Sea species habitat project. Realizing the program is within the fish and game laws and guidelines and is about the immediate needs of the habitat at the Salton Sea and is concerned about local projects that will improve habitat and decrease the salinity of the Sea. As long as these are the priorities and the commitment of the habitat projects, I am in favor of the program. And as long as the program does not endorse a specific Salton Sea Restoration project for the Salton Sea until one is voted on, then I am in favor of the financial assistance program as being presented at this time.	Priorities should be improving habitat, decreasing salinity of the Sea not endorsing any Restoration project until voted upon.	As laid out in our Guidelines and PSP, all projects submitted to the Salton Sea Finacial Assistant Program will be thoroughly reviewed by a panel of experts. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) do not support, favor, or endorse any specific project at this time. We are not yet aware of who the applicants might be. The applicants will be awarded base on the technical value of their proposal and the final accords of the DWR and DFG directors. For further transparence in the process we have addedd a table in the Proposal Solicitation Package detailling the scoring criteria.
Participant	1-18-1	Brawley Public Meeting	Question	What are the firewalls to avoid conflicts of interest between applicants and those that are asked to review applications?	Conflicts of interest	We are aware of the potential conflict of interest. We will be able to act upon it only once we know who the applicants are. The Salton Sea Financial Assistance Program Staff is a neutral party that will ensure that conflict of interest are avoided.
Participant	1-18-2	Brawley Public Meeting	Question	Will tribes be eligible to apply?	Tribe eligibility	As mentionned in our Guidelines section 4.1 (Eligible Grant Applicants), federally recognized California Native American tribes are eligible to receive grants. If not federally recognized, tribes have the option of applying as a non profit organization.
Participant	1-18-3	Brawley Public Meeting	Question	Will an applicant's track record of success and follow-through be considered when determining grant awards?	Applicant's Track Record	Yes, an applicant's track record of success and follow-through will be considered when determining grant awards. We are considering giving 15 points out of 100 possible (Guidelines section 6.3.3 and PSP table 5.2) if the applicant can demonstrate that he has succefully carried similar projects in the past.
Participant	1-18-4	Brawley Public Meeting	Question	Will projects be dismissed from consideration for minor technical mistakes?	Minor Technical Mistakes	By essence, nothing "minor" can make us dismiss a good project. We will review a project under our criteria and award funds to a project based on its final score.
Participant	1-19-1	Palm Desert Public Meeting	Question	Q. How much money from Prop 84 is available for the FAP? A. SS Restoration Fund receives funding from Prop 84 and has dedicated \$3 million per year to FAP	Prop 84 Monies Dedicated to FAP	The FAP has \$3,000,000.00 available for this fiscal. This amount will be re-evaluated each year depending on the need and availability of funds.
Participant	1-19-2	Palm Desert Public Meeting	Question	Will there be an oline method to apply for FAP grants?	Applying Online	The Salton Sea FAP will set up a mandatory online application through the Bond Management System (BMS). Due to site maintenance, the exact date of the site availability is not yet known. Yet, we are planning to open the online application in sometimes in March for about 30 days. We will provide assitance to the applicants.
Participant	1-19-3	Palm Desert Public Meeting	Question	Is there a cost sharing component or requirement to receive and FAP grant?	Cost Sharing	No, there is not local cost share requirement.
Participant	1-19-4	Palm Desert Public Meeting	Question	What rules and requirements will grantees need to follow in contracting work?	Rules and Requirements	Grantee will have to go throught he bid process in order to hire contractor to do the job describe in the proposal. The bid documents might be requested if the grant is awarded.
Participant	1-19-5	Palm Desert Public Meeting	Question	Will grantees be allowed to use FAP funds for operations and maintenace?	Operations and Naintenance	No, operation and maintenance costs are not eligible for reimbursment under the Salton Sea Financial Assistance Program.

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Steven Robbins, General Manager-Chief Engineer, Coachella Valley Water District P.O. Box 1058, Coachella, CA 92236	1-24-1	Email	Takes issue with 2 items in the program	<p>Thank you for affording the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) the opportunity to review the Draft Salton Sea Financial Assistance Program Guidelines and Application Package (Program Guidelines). As one of the agencies contributing funds to the Salton Sea Restoration Fund mentioned in Section 2.2 of the Program Guidelines, the District has eagerly awaited the release of this financial assistance program. CVWD provides domestic water, wastewater, recycled water, irrigation/drainage, regional stormwater protection and groundwater management services to a population of 285,000 throughout the Coachella Valley in Southern California.</p> <p>At this time, CVWD submits the following comments for your consideration:</p> <p>1. In the first paragraph of Section 2.3.1 Habitat Creation and Enhancement, the second sentence reads "Salinity of the Salton Sea is steadily increasing, and it is anticipated to accelerate substantially after 2017, when water currently flowing to the Salton Sea to mitigate flow reductions will be discontinued." This is a misleading sentence and it appears to indicate an abandonment of the Salton Sea in 2017 by the water agencies. A discussion should be added to this paragraph indicating that the reason mitigation water will cease in 2017 is because, according to the Quantification Settlement Agreement environmental document approved in 2002, in the "do nothing alternative" the Salton Sea becomes too saline to continue to support the habitat existent in 2002. There was a 15-year warning issued by the QSA EIR. Ten years have passed without restoration action. Therefore, the urgency to begin projects such as those to be funded in accordance with these Program Guidelines by 2017 is the result of a course of events that has been progressing since the Sea filled in 1905. The urgency to begin is not because of the pending end of QSA mitigation water.</p> <p>2. In Section 2.6.3 Project Evaluation and Selection, under Evaluation Criteria on page 2-9, there are specific weighting percentages assigned to the four general evaluation criteria. However, this Section refers to Table 3-1 on page 3-11 which shows point values that do not coincide with the percentage values shown on page 2-9. The District prefers the values as shown on page 2-9. The difference between the two sets of values is that on page 2-9, more emphasis is given to the feasibility to implement and less to the applicant's qualifications.</p> <p>If you have any questions, please contact Dan Farris, Director of Operations, at 760-398-2651 extension 3500.</p>	Views verbiage in Section 2.3.1 regarding the accelerating salinity due to flow reductions after 2017 as misleading. Indicates disparity between tables on pages 2-9 and 3-11. Prefers the values shown in the table on page 2-9 to those on page 3-11.	We have added that the discontinuation of the mitigation water flowing into the Salton Sea will stop in 2017, "in accordance with the Quantification Settlement Agreement of 2003". We have reviewed our scoring criteria so that the feasibility of the project prevails over the qualification of the project proponent.
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